

## THE REVISED ELECTION LAW

The Original Australian Ballot Changed in Such Respects as Experience Shows is Necessary.

The law as adopted applies to all elections in the State except in school districts. A place on the ballot cannot be secured by an existing party if it casts less than 5 per cent. of the total vote at the next previous election. Candidates or full tickets may be placed on the ballot by petition signed by 2,500 qualified voters in a State election. In counties the number shall be 15 per cent. of the qualified voters, but the number must not be less than 25.

The tickets of the various political parties shall be arranged on the ballot in the order of the numerical strength of the parties at the last preceding election, the party having the highest number of votes getting first, the next highest second place, and so on.

The provision for publication of ballots in newspapers has been dropped out entirely. This will result in a substantial saving, as this item of expense has been very great in many counties. A maximum rate to be charged for the printing of the ballots is fixed. It is \$10 per thousand if there are not more than four tickets on the ballot. An extra \$1.50 per thousand is allowed for each additional ticket. This rate applies to State elections, but in the odd years when nothing but county and township officers are to be elected the price shall be \$5 per thousand ballots containing not more than four tickets, and \$1 per thousand extra for each additional ticket. Sufficient ballots shall be printed to provide 75 for each 50 votes cast at the previous election and enough for a duplicate supply to be used in case ballots are destroyed or become exhausted. Sample ballots shall be printed on some color of paper other than white, while the ballot to be voted shall be printed on white paper. The old law provides for the printing of about four or five times as many ballots as are used, but it will be noted that a great saving is made in this respect. The job printers have been privileged to charge whatever they could get the Commissioners to pay for printing ballots, but the new rate secures cheap service in this respect.

The form of the ballot is changed considerably. Instead of a blank space under each candidate's name on which the name of anyone for whom the voter may desire to vote may be written, one full blank ticket is placed at the right of the ballot. This reduces the size of the ballot almost one-half. The squares are changed and placed to the right of the candidate's name instead of to the left. A line is placed between the tickets in order to separate them in such a way as to enable any voter to readily see which line of squares are intended to be marked to vote the ticket he may desire to vote. Not more than two judges and one clerk shall belong to the same political party. One judge and one clerk are to be first selected from the party casting the highest vote at the next preceding election, a judge and clerk from the party casting the next highest number, and the remaining judge from any party not included in the above. Little change is made in the arrangement of booths, but it is provided that there must be one for each 60 voters.

In order to prevent the practice of the "endless chain" system of corruption and fraud, a new plan is devised. When a voter enters the polling place

his name is entered on the list opposite a number as is now the case. When a ballot is given him, his number on the poll-book is written in one corner of the ballot. When the ballot is returned by the voter to be deposited in the box, the judge receiving it ascertains whether its number is the same as the one opposite that voter's name, and if such is the case, he clips the corner containing the number off and the ballot is deposited. This does not interfere with a secret ballot, and it would seem that it would effectually prevent the use of the "endless chain" scheme. Voters requiring assistance shall be accompanied to the booth by two judges of different parties. Intoxication shall not constitute a disability, and voters in that condition are not entitled to and shall not receive assistance.

At present judges in precincts casting 700 votes are paid the same as judges in precincts having but twenty votes. The new law provides that judges shall receive \$2 for the first 250 ballots counted and \$1 for each extra 100 or major fraction thereof. In city elections the pay shall be \$2.50 for the first 250 ballots and 50 cents for each extra 100.

This law is regarded as a good one. It contains many minor provisions which will interest people; and in order that voters may have an opportunity to become acquainted with it before election time, it is provided that 10,000 copies shall be printed and distributed. These copies will be ready for distribution soon. The saving effected by this bill amounts to as high as \$1,000 in some counties. It will also result in more fair and honest elections.

#### How They Do in Congress.

(Continued from page 1.)

when he says that Colonel Coombs's friends pleaded for the passage of the resolution in his behalf in order that he might become a teacher or instructor of his successor. I participated in that debate myself in behalf of Colonel Coombs, and used no such argument. I never heard it used until it was used on this floor to-day, from the fresh and gushing memory of my colleague from Iowa.

Colonel Coombs was pleaded for because of the merits of the man, and for that reason alone. I have served here for some fourteen years, and I cannot name a man who is more efficient or of greater help to my constituents than C. W. Coombs. It is for that reason that I fought for the resolution to put him on here. I was impelled by no other purpose, Mr. Chairman.

There is a man from my district whose body is full of lead, received for his country, who was put by two Democratic Houses on the rolls as an additional officer, and kept there and tided over the 4th of March by an appropriation bill exactly as this bill.

It is usual; it is simply fair play between side and side of this House, and I beg of the gentleman who makes the point of order to have respect for the traditions of the House, to the courtesies of the House, and withdraw the objection and let this go in as it has done heretofore by the Committee on Appropriations, which ranks second to none in scanning closely matters represented in the bill and recommended to the House.

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(First Published April 28, 1897.)

## APPRAISEMENT

Of the Unoccupied School Lands West of the 98th Meridian.

Whereas, all of the unoccupied school lands of the State of Kansas west of the 98th meridian which were withdrawn from sale by an act of the Legislature as provided by chapter 162 of the session laws of 1895, and which could only be placed on sale again by order of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction after the price at which said lands shall be offered for sale has been fixed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, and the Secretary of State, with special reference to the improvements thereon; and

Whereas, it is considered desirable to again place said lands on the market so as to give an opportunity to all who desire to make homes in the western part of the State a chance to purchase said lands;

Therefore, we, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, and the Secretary of State, do hereby, in view of said lands being again placed on sale, fix the price of said lands so withdrawn from sale as aforesaid at the price provided in article 14 of the general statutes of 1895.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 26th day of April, 1897.

WM. STRYKER,  
Superintendent Public Instruction of Kansas.

F. D. COBURN,  
Secretary of the Board of Agriculture of Kansas.

W. E. BUSH,  
Secretary of State of the State of Kansas.

(First published April 28, 1897.)

Order Concerning the Unoccupied School Lands West of the 98th Meridian.

I, William Stryker, Superintendent of Public Instruction, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, and in accordance with the provisions of chapter 162 of the laws of 1895, and after the price of said lands has been fixed as by law provided, do hereby order that all unoccupied school lands of the State of Kansas west of the 98th meridian which were withdrawn from sale as provided by said chapter 162, session laws of 1895, be placed on sale again at the price fixed by the Superintendent of

Public Instruction, the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, and the Secretary of State, which price is the same as provided by article 14 of the general statutes of 1895, and that such lands shall be sold according to the provisions of said article 14 of the general statutes of 1895.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at my office in the Capitol Building in the city of Topeka this 26th day of April, A. D., 1897.

(SEAL) WM. STRYKER,  
Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kansas.

(First Published April 21, 1897.)

## PROPOSALS.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions until the 13th day of May, 1897, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Insane Asylum, Topeka, Kansas, for furnishing and setting a Corliss engine in the power house at the Insane Asylum, Osawatomie, Kansas.

This work is authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions under chapter 28, session laws of 1897.

Specifications may be seen at the Insane Asylum, Osawatomie, Kansas, after April 30, 1897.

Proposals must conform to the form provided in the specifications, blanks for which may be had on application to the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Osawatomie, Kansas, and must be accompanied by a check, to be certified by the president or cashier of the bank upon which it is drawn, for a sum not less than 5 per cent. of the amount of said proposal, made payable to P. H. Dolan, Treasurer of the Board, and to be forfeited to the State of Kansas for damages sustained in case the bidder fails for five days to enter into contract for the work bid upon, and to give satisfactory bond for the faithful performance of the contract in case award is made to him.

Bids will be sealed and marked on the outside of the envelope with the name of the bidder and with the following statement: "Proposal for furnishing and setting Corliss engine," and will be addressed to W. L. Brown, President of the Board of Charities, care of the Insane Asylum, Topeka, Kansas.

The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.  
S. C. WHEELER,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions.

(First Published April 21, 1897.)

## PROPOSALS.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions until the 13th day of May, 1897, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Insane Asylum, Topeka, Kansas, for the construction of a hospital building at the State Institution for the Idiotic and Imbecile Youth at Winfield, Kansas.

This work is authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions under chapter 42, session laws of 1895.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of J. G. Haskell, Topeka, Kansas, and also at the Institution for the Idiotic and Imbecile Youth at Winfield, after April 29, 1897.

Each proposal must conform to the form provided in the specifications, blanks for which may be had on application to J. G. Haskell, Topeka, Kansas, or to the Superintendent of the Institution at Winfield, Kansas, and must be accompanied by a check, to be certified by the president or cashier of the bank upon which it is drawn, for a sum not less than 5 per cent. of the amount of said proposal, made payable to P. H. Dolan, Treasurer of the Board, and to be forfeited to the State of Kansas for damages sustained in case the bidder fails for five days to enter into contract for the work bid upon, and to give satisfactory bond for the faithful performance of the contract in case award is made to him.

The attention of bidders is called to chapter 14, session laws of the State of Kansas 1891, in relation to eight hours constituting a day's work.

Bids will conform to forms prescribed at the end of the specifications; will be sealed and marked on the outside of the envelope with the name of the bidder and with the following statement: "Proposal for construction of hospital building," and will be addressed to W. L. Brown, President of the Board of Charities, care of the Insane Asylum, Topeka, Kansas.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.  
S. C. WHEELER,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institutions.